

We claim:

1. A system for facilitating a trade of a first item owned by a first user for a second item owned by a second user, the first user and the second user connected to a network, comprising:

5 a memory device; and  
a processor disposed in communication with the memory device, the processor configured to:

receive a request from the first user, the request including an identification of the second item;

10 allow the second user to access at least one item owned by the first user, said at least one item including the first item;

receive a response from the second user, the response including an identification of the first item; and

receive an acceptance from the first user.

15 2. The system of claim 1, wherein to receive the request, the processor is further configured to:

store the request; and

send a notification of the request to at least the second user.

20 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the notification is sent to the second user and all other owners of the item.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the storing of the request is to a database.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the allowing of the second user to access said at least one item owned by the first user succeeds the receiving of the request from the first user.

25 6. The system of claim 1, wherein to allow the second user to access said at least one item owned by the first user, the processor is further configured to:

display a trading history for the first user; and

display said at least one item owned by the first user

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the trading history is a summary of evaluations by traders who were opposite the first user in previous trades.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the summary includes the rating of trades and the trading partners' comments.

5 9. The system of claim 6, wherein the display of said at least one item owned by the first user includes a proffered condition of said at least one item.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein to receive the response from the second user, the processor is further configured to:

store the response; and

10 send a notification of the response to the first user.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the storing of the response is to a database.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein to receive the acceptance, the processor is further configured to:

15 store the acceptance; and

send a notification of the acceptance to the second user.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein after the receiving of the acceptance, the processor is further configured to:

associate a time period with the trade,

20 whereby the first user and the second user confirm the trade during the time period.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein a countdown timer measures the time period.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the storing of the acceptance is to a database.

25 16. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to:  
store said at least one item owned by the first user; and  
store at least one item owned by the second user, said at least one item owned by the second user including the second item.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to:  
receive a first confirmation from the first user; and  
receive a second confirmation from the second user, whereby the first  
confirmation and the second confirmation indicate completion of the trade.

5 18. The system of claim 1, wherein each item includes a type and a proffered  
condition.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein the type includes a video media format, an  
audio media format, a printed media format, or a video game format.

10 20. A method for facilitating a trade of a first item owned by a first user for a  
second item owned by a second user, the first user and the second user connected to a network,  
comprising:

receiving a request from the first user, the request including an  
identification of the second item;

15 allowing the second user to access at least one item owned by the first  
user, said at least one item including the first item;

receiving a response from the second user, the response including an  
identification of the first item; and

receiving an acceptance from the first user.

20 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the receiving of the request further  
comprises:

storing the request; and

sending a notification of the request to at least the second user.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the notification is sent to the second user  
and all other owners of the item.

25 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the storing of the request is to a  
database.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the allowing of the second user to access  
said at least one item owned by the first user succeeds the receiving of the request from the first  
user.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the allowing of the second user to access said at least one item owned by the first user further comprises:

displaying a trading history for the first user; and  
displaying said at least one item owned by the first user

5 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the trading history is a summary of evaluations by traders who were opposite the first user in previous trades.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the summary includes the rating of trades and the trading partners' comments.

10 28. The method of claim 25, wherein the display of said at least one item owned by the first user includes a proffered condition of said at least one item.

29. The method of claim 20, wherein the receiving of the response from the second user further comprises:

storing the response; and  
sending a notification of the response to the first user.

15 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the storing of the response is to a database.

31. The method of claim 20, wherein the receiving of the acceptance further comprises:

storing the acceptance; and  
sending a notification of the acceptance to the second user.

20 32. The method of claim 20, wherein after the receiving of the acceptance, further comprising:

associating a time period with the trade, whereby the first user and the second user confirm the trade during the time period.

25 33. The method of claim 32, wherein a countdown timer measures the time period.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein the storing of the acceptance is to a database.

35. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

storing said at least one item owned by the first user; and  
storing at least one item owned by the second user, said at least one item  
owned by the second user including the second item.

36. The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
5 receiving a first confirmation from the first user; and  
receiving a second confirmation from the second user, whereby the first  
confirmation and the second confirmation indicate completion of the trade.

37. The method of claim 20, wherein each item includes a type and a  
proffered condition.

10 38. The method of claim 20, wherein the type includes a video media format,  
an audio media format, a printed media format, or a video game format.

39. A computer program product for facilitating a trade of a first item owned  
by a first user for a second item owned by a second user, the first user and the second user  
connected to a network, comprising:

15 a computer readable medium storing:  
program code for receiving a request from the first user, the  
request including an identification of the second item;  
program code for allowing the second user to access at least one  
item owned by the first user, said at least one item including the first item;  
20 program code for receiving a response from the second user, the  
response including an identification of the first item; and  
program code for receiving an acceptance from the first user.

40. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the program code for  
receiving the request further comprises:

25 program code for storing the request; and  
program code for sending a notification of the request to at least the  
second user.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the notification is sent to the second user  
and all other owners of the item.

42. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the program code for allowing the second user to access said at least one item owned by the first user further comprises:

program code for displaying a trading history for the first user; and  
program code for displaying said at least one item owned by the first user

43. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the program code for receiving the response from the second user further comprises:

program code for storing the response; and  
program code for sending a notification of the response to the first user.

44. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the program code for receiving the acceptance further comprises:

program code for storing the acceptance; and  
program code for sending a notification of the acceptance to the second user.

45. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein after the receiving of the acceptance, further comprising:

program code for associating a time period with the trade,  
whereby the first user and the second user confirm the trade during the time period.

46. The computer program product of claim 39, further comprising:  
program code for storing said at least one item owned by the first user; and  
program code for storing at least one item owned by the second user, said at least one item owned by the second user including the second item.

47. The computer program product of claim 39, further comprising:  
program code for receiving a first confirmation from the first user; and  
program code for receiving a second confirmation from the second user,  
whereby the first confirmation and the second confirmation indicate completion of the trade.

48. A graphical user interface, comprising:

a first region to display items that a user is requesting from other users;  
and

a second region to display items that the other users are requesting from  
the user, wherein the items displayed in the first region and the second region include an  
5 indicator to communicate to the user a status of the trade.

49. The graphical user interface of claim 48, wherein for items in the first  
region the status includes no response, notification of a new offer, a timer indicating the  
remaining time the offer is valid, notification of the expiration or refusal of an offer and trade  
complete.

10 50. The graphical user interface of claim 48, wherein for items in the second  
region the status includes notification of a new offer, an existing offer awaiting action, a timer  
indicating the remaining time the offer is valid, notification of the expiration or refusal of an  
offer, notification of an accepted trade and trade complete.